

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,  
1956-present

University Relations

---

4-8-1971

### Veteran linemen provide strength to Grizzly offense

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

## Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Veteran linemen provide strength to Grizzly offense" (1971). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 24878.  
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/24878>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).



## sports

This is the third in a series of five articles on the University of Montana spring football practices in Missoula.

Information Services • University of Montana • Missoula, Montana 59801 • (406) 243-2522  
MISSOULA---

The offensive line will be one of the most experienced units on the University of Montana football team next year. "We have everybody back except a couple of players that graduated and I think we'll have a good unit," Montana assistant Bill Betcher said. He coaches the offensive line and outside linebackers.

Betcher must replace Len Johnson at left tackle and lost sometimes starter Marty Frustaci for a guard position. Johnson was 6-1 and 225 lbs. and a native of Sacramento, Calif., while Frustaci was 6-0 and 220 lbs. from Los Angeles, Calif.

"I think we'll be bigger up front," Betcher said. Montana returns starters Willie Postler, Barry Darrow, Steve Okoniewski and Ray Stachnik. Postler and Stachnik started for the last two years and Okoniewski is the All-Big Sky returner.

Not only does Montana have four returning starters but seasoned veterans Ron Richards and John Lugviel also are back.

Postler, 6-5 and 246 lbs. from Vancouver B.C., and Darrow, 6-7 and 252 lbs. from Great Falls, are the two biggest members of the offensive interior. Postler has started for two straight seasons and Darrow earned a starting berth last fall as a sophomore.

Betcher said the Grizzlies are fortunate to have big, strong, quick and agile linemen that are able to handle opponents one-on-one. "That with the proper mental approach to the game are the criteria of good linemen," he said.

Okoniewski, 6-3 and 235 lbs. from Bremerton, Wash., took over last year after All-American Tuufuli Uperesa graduated. Both wore number 75 and for the last three years that Grizzly number has been on the All-Big Sky first team list. "Okoniewski, like all our veterans, has a great attitude and works very hard to be on top," Betcher said.

Stachnik is a two year starter from Chicago. As did Postler, Stachnik came off a strong redshirt year in 1969 to earn a starting berth as a sophomore and never relinquished that role. He is 6-2 and 228 lbs.



Lugviel saw a lot of action last season in a reserve role as did Richards, the Montana assistant said. Both are excellent prospects. Lugviel is 6-3 and 227 lbs. from Longview, Wash., and Richards is 6-3 and 235 lbs. from Butte.

The Tips have some top freshmen candidates in Doug Cleveland, 6-4 and 227 lbs. from Butte; Ben Surwill, 6-2 and 220 lbs. from Billings; Keith Lindstrom, 6-3 and 220 lbs. from Baker; Dennis Schneiter, 6-1 and 200 lbs. from Missoula; Kit Blue, 6-1 and 210 lbs. from Olympia, Wash., and Dave Peterman, 6-2 and 230 lbs. from Whitefish.

Betcher said Cleveland will be either a guard or tackle, Surwill and Lindstrom at tackles, Peterman at guard and Blue and Schneiter at centers.

#### LINEBACKERS...

The Grizzlies return two year starter Bill Sterns at one outside linebacker spot but lost two year starter Tim Gallagher from the other.

Betcher said Gallagher and Sterns were a great pair in 1969 and 1970 and Gallagher would be hard to replace. The Kalispell graduate was All-Big Sky in 1969 and signed as a free agent for the Dallas Cowboys.

Sterns will probably team up with another Kalispell linebacker, Terry Pugh. Pugh, 6-0 and 195 lbs., was Gallagher's backup last season and showed great promise. Sterns is 6-1 and 225 lbs. from Stevenson, Wash.

Betcher said the Grizzly outside linebackers have to be capable of covering receivers one-on-one, have speed, agility and quickness and just be able to find the football.

Two other veterans are back also. Tony Bozzo redshirted last season due to a hernia operation and is back for his final season. He is 6-0 and 215 lbs. from Salinas, Calif. Bozzo and Bruce Spencer, 6-1 and 215 lbs. from Hoquiam, Wash., will be battling for starting roles.

Freshman Curt Donner, 6-3 and 205 lbs. from Spokane, has shown great promise in spring drills after being moved from a defensive end. Betcher said if Donner continues to improve he could start.

The other outside linebacker vying for a spot on the 1971 team is transfer Tim Ragen from Townsend. He is 6-1 and 195 lbs. and transferred from Western Montana College, Dillon. Betcher said Ragen has shown a lot of promise in spring drills.